(d) if so, the details of these plants;

(e) whether some private sector companies are still exporting the banned plants and violating the rules; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such thefts from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) There have been some reports in the newspapers stating that the wealth of India's forests and fields, its rich bio-diversity is/are being plundered by foreign companies and their agents.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government had prohibited export of 46 plants, plant portions and their derivatives, vide Public Notice No. 47(PN)/92-97 dated 30 March 1994. This order has been amended from time to time. Under the current Export-Import Policy, the export of the following Plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts obtained from the wild are prohibited, namely, (1) Aconitum species, (2) Attropa species, (3) Aristolochia species, (4) Anglopteris species, (5) Arundinaria Jaunsarensia, (6) Balanophora species, (7) Colchicum luteum (Hirantutya), (8) Commiphora whightii, (9) Coptis species, (10) Drosera species, (11) Gentiana Kurroo (Kuru, Kutki), (12) Gloriosa superba, (13) Gnetum species, (14) Iphignia indica, (15) Meconopsis betonicifolia, (16) Nardostachys species (Jatamansi), (17) Osmunda species, (18) Rhododendron species, (19) Physochiaina praealta (Bajarbang), (20) Praltia serpumlia, (21) Rheum emodi (Dolu), (22) Berberis aristata (Indian barberry; Rasvat), (23) Acorus species, (24) Artemisia species, (25) Coscinium fenestratum (Calumba wood), (26) Costus speciosas (Keu, Kust), (27) Didymocarpus pedicellata, (28) Dolomiaea pedicellata, (29) Ephedra species, (30) Gynocardia odorata (Chaulmogri), (31) Hydnocarpus species, (32) Hyocymus niger (Broseword), (33) Strychnos potatorum (Nirmali), (34) Swertia chirata (Charayatah), (35) Urginea species, (36) Beddomes Cycad (Cycas beddomei), (37)Blue vanda (vandaeoerulea), (38) Kuth (Saussurea lappa), (39) Ladies slipper orchid (Paphiopedilium species), (40) Pitcher plant (Nepenthes Khasiana), (41) Red vanda (Renanthera imschootiana), (42) Rauvolifia serpentina (Sarpagandha), (43) Ceropegia species, (44) Frerea indica (Shindal Mankundi), (45) Podophyllum hexandurm (emodi) (Indian Podophyllum), (46) Cyatheaceae species (Tree Ferns), (47) Cycadacea species (Cycads), (48) Dioscorea deltoidea (Elephant's foot), (49) Euphorbia species (Euphorbias), (50) Orchidaceae species (Orchids), (51) Pterocarpus santalinus (Red Sanders), (52) taxus wallichiana (Common Yew or Birmi leaves), and (53) Aquilaria malaccensis (Agarwood). Plants and plant portions, derivatives and extracts (including value added herbal formulations) of the cultivated varieties of the species mentioned above (excluding Pterocarpus santalinus (Red Sanders) will be allowed for export subject to production of a Certificate of Cultivations from Regional Deputy Director (Wildlife), or Chief Coservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officers of the State concerned from where these plants and plant portions have been procured. However, in respact of cultivated varieties of the species mentioned at serial nos. (36) to (53) above, a CITES Permit for export will also be required.

(e) and (f) Government has no evidence of it. However, a national legislation on biodiversity is under preparation which includes regulating access to and transfer of genetic material of the country.

Research on Silk

5458. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development division of Central Silk Board has developed a high quality silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the silk grower farmers to this; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to save the interests of growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In order to produce good quality silk in the country, the Research & Development Institutes of the Central Silk Board (CSB) have developed quality bivoltine silkworm hybrids and improved cross breeds. The field trials of these new hybrids are under progress and the response of the farmers and reelers to these new hybrids in Karnataka has been encouraging.

(c) In order to protect the interests of the silk grower farmers certain support systems are being provided by the CSB and the States such as setting up of Seed Farms and Silkworm Seed Production Centres to ensure availability of adequate seeds to growers. Besides, traditional sericultural States operate bidding cocoon markets while most non-traditional States have support systems for purchase of cocoons.

[Translation]

Textile Mills in Maharashtra

5459. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills in Maharashtra alongwith their production capacity;

(b) the number of employees working in these mills during the last three years and the number of employees who have been rendered jobless as a result of closure of the textile mills during this period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the revival of the sick units of the State and provide employment to those employees who have been rendered jobless as a result of the closure of textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) As on 31.12.1996, there were 182 cotton/man-made Fibre Textile Mills with a capacity of 5092250 spindles, 36668 rotors and 41265 looms in Maharashtra.